



TO THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF PENRYN.

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ANNUAL REPORT

for

THE YEAR 1941

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH.

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## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1941.

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To the Council of the Borough of Penryn :-

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report, for obvious reasons will again be very short and confined to essentials.

### SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

These have not varied to any great extent.

A large number of evacuated children and adults have returned home and this has eased the position as regards housing considerably.

Arrangements for sending children to hostels have continued to work smoothly.

The social centre and recreation room has ceased to exist- The building was demolished by enemy action and it was not deemed to be worth while starting another centre elsewhere as the original one was very little patronized.

### STATISTICS.

Area in Acres. . . . .	721.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940). . . . .	1,180.
Rateable Value. . . . .	£16,080.
Sum produced by a penny rate. . . . .	£65.

### Vital Statistics.

Population Mid 1941. . . . .	4,238.
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	M.	F.	Total.	
<u>Live Births.</u>	20.	35.	55.	Birth-rate per 1,000 of Population 13.7
	Legitimate.			
	Illegitimate.	1.	2.	3.
<u>Still Births.</u>	1.	2.	3.	Rate per 1,000 births- 49.1
<u>Deaths.</u>	29.	31.	60.	Death-rate 14.2 per 1,000.

These statistics call for no special comment- they are much the same as in recent years and show that, in spite of conditions which would be expected to operate against the health of the community, this has in fact been maintained.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

1. Puerperal sepsis. . . . . nil.
2. Other Causes. . . . . nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :-

Legitimate. . . . .	2.
Illegitimate. . . . .	0.

All infants per 1,000 live births. . . . .	34.5
Deaths, from Cancer (all ages). . . . .	10.
. . . . . Measles (all ages). . . . .	nil.
. . . . . Whooping Cough (all ages). . . . .	1.
. . . . . Diarrhoea (under 2 years). . . . .	nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

M.O.H. J.N.L.Blamey., M.B., B.Ch. D.F.H. (Part time and also District M.O under Public Assistance Authority and Public Vaccinator).

Sanitary Inspector. J.H.Harris A.R.S.I (Half time) who also holds a certificate for Food Inspection.

There have been no alterations of importance in the health services.

The minor ailment clinic has continued to serve a very useful purpose, especially in regard to inspecting and treating verminous children. There are still cases of Scabies and Impetigo occurring, but not in such numbers as in the previous year.





### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

Water. Supplies have continued satisfactory in quality and quantity. The new reservoir has been completed and should allay all misgivings as to supply not being able to meet demands.

Analyses, which I do not propose to include in this report, have been invariably satisfactory: though complaints concerning the taste of the water have been received from time to time. This is due to the rather heavy chlorination which has sometimes been necessary.

Drainage and Sewage. No new work has been done under this head.

Closet Accomodation. Nil to report.

Rivers and Streams. Nil to report.

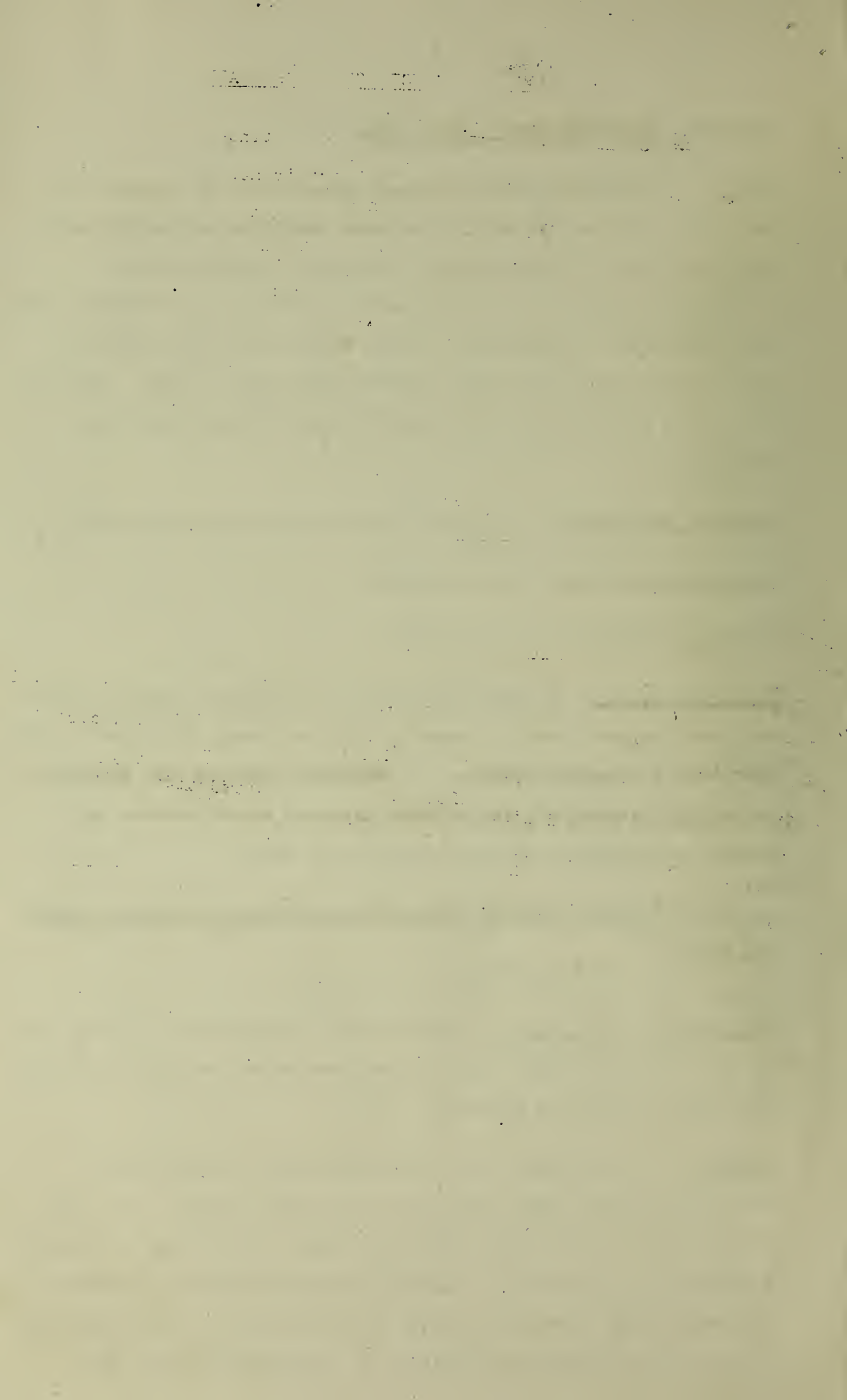
Public Cleansing. A number of cases of Scabies and Impetigo have continued to occur and all heavily infected ones, if evacuees, have been sent to special hostels. Infected clothing and bedding are being cleansed and disinfested by steam sterilization by special arrangements we have been able to make.

Shops and Offices, Camping Sites, Smoke Abatement, Swimming Baths and Pools.

Nil to report.

Eradication of Bed-bugs. Three Council houses had to be treated by the local Authority - the same methods being employed as I have described in previous reports.

HOUSING. No new houses have been erected and no demolitions undertaken except those forced on us by enemy action. I do not propose here to state the number of houses destroyed or seriously damaged by enemy action. Suffice it to say that the problem of rehousing those rendered homeless was a considerable one, but that it has been successfully tackled. It was fortunate that the evacuated population was steadily declining at the time.





### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk.

Cowsheds and Dairies have been frequently and regularly inspected and a large number of samples taken. These have shown wide variations and it is obvious that some producers are still not taking enough care in their methods.

#### Meat and other Foods.

Shops, stalls and vehicles are regularly inspected. Minor faults have been discovered and corrected. No cases calling for legal proceedings have arisen.

There are no Slaughter-houses in the Borough and the Distribution Centre has now been removed out of the district.

#### Schools.

The Sanitary block at the Church of England School has been modernised, and is now quite satisfactory.

#### Rats.

Infested areas are treated about 3 times a year. Large numbers have been destroyed especially at the refuse Dump.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year the following notifications were received :-

Scarlet Fever. . . . .	1.
Diphtheria. . . . .	4.
Measles. . . . .	100.
Whooping-cough. . . . .	18.
Pneumonia. . . . .	2.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum. . . . .	1.
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. . . . .	1.

The Scarlet Fever case was an evacuated child and was sent to the County Isolation Hospital.



Measles was part of a pan-epidemic and though widespread was not of a severe type - There were no deaths and all cases were nursed at home.

Whooping cough was also widespread- not all cases by any means were notified. There was one death from a complicating broncho-pneumonia.

The four diphtheria cases all occurred in one household. The disease was contracted in another area and by the time they arrived down here and medical aid was sought the two children, who were removed at once to the County Isolation Hospital, were in such desperate straits that they died. This brings me to the subject of diphtheria immunization. At the beginning of the year a campaign was started- All parents of children between the ages of one and sixteen were circularised and posters were exhibited in various prominent places in the town. There was a splendid response from the schools and about 97% of the scholars at the two elementary schools in the town were immunized. As was to be expected the response from the evacuated schools was not so good owing to the difficulty of getting parents consent. This brought down the percentage rate for the whole borough. However, during the year 776 children of school age and 145 under 5 years of age were done. To these numbers must be added an unknown number who were immunized before the scheme came into operation. The main difficulty has been to get hold of the children of pre-school age and these are the very children it is most important to treat. However there are signs that parents are becoming increasingly aware of their responsibilities in this respect and more and more young children are being immunized. I should like here to refer to the valuable and willing help I have received from my colleague Dr. Herwald and the W.V.S helpers.



The case of Cerebro-spinal Meningitis was a member of H.M. Forces billeted in the Borough- He was removed at once to Hospital, contacts were isolated and kept under observation and no further cases occurred.

#### Isolation Hospital Accommodation.

During the year we had, fortunately, to make very few calls on such accommodation.

I attended a conference at the emergency County Isolation Hospital at Truro and heard proposals put forward by the County Council for converting this into a permanent Central infectious diseases hospital for the whole County- With a few exceptions at the Eastern end of the County. This scheme has a good deal to recommend it, but this Council will receive my observations in a special report.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

During the past year the following cases were notified :-  
2 Pulmonary cases, both females, aged 56 and 42.

There were 4 non-pulmonary cases- all males, aged 11, 7, 37 and 11 respectively. There were no deaths from any form of tubercular disease.

Notification during the period under review has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. N. L. BLANEY.

September 1942.



